

# **FACT SHEET**

## **Grain Processors Voluntary Air Compliance Audit Program**



**November 2000**

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Region 7, is offering a Voluntary Air Compliance Audit Program to grain processing facilities. Some facilities within the grain processing sector may not have obtained necessary air permits or may otherwise not be in compliance with the Clean Air Act. Demand for products produced by this sector has steadily increased in the past decade. Existing facilities may have increased capacity by modifying process units or building new ones to respond to this demand. Increased capacity may trigger the need to obtain pre-construction permits under the Clean Air Act.

### **EPA'S AUDIT POLICY**

Voluntary audit programs play an important role in helping companies meet their obligation to comply with environmental laws. EPA's audit policy greatly reduces and sometimes eliminates penalties for companies that discover, disclose and correct civil violations identified through voluntary audits. The policy encourages companies to promptly disclose and correct violations, prevent recurrence of the violations, and remedy any environmental harm.

Region 7 has identified grain processing facilities as an enforcement priority for 2001 in the four-state area the region serves (Iowa, Kansas, Missouri and Nebraska). EPA's audit policy does not apply to facilities that have already been informed that they are under investigation by EPA or to violations discovered during inspections by EPA.

The compliance audit program is a unique opportunity to ensure compliance with Clean Air Act requirements before EPA and authorized states begin increased inspections of the grain processing sector.

### **FOR MORE INFORMATION:**

If you have questions or would like to participate in this program, please contact:

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